



Eastern Panhandle Region Outlook

FORECAST: 2001-2006

July 2002

BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



Executive Summary

The Eastern Panhandle Region largely escaped the impact of the mild U.S. recession in 2001. However, job growth was just 1.4 percent in 2001, after average growth of 2.6 percent per year during the 1995-2000 period. Manufacturing job growth was weak again in 2001, with the region losing 335 jobs in 2000 and 330 jobs in 2001. This reflects a tough two-year stretch in manufacturing nationwide. However, in terms of overall job gains, the region outperformed the state which posted job losses in 2001. In addition, the region's unemployment rate rose from 2.8 percent in 2000 to 3.3 percent in 2001.

During the last half of the 1990s, the region outperformed job growth rates posted by the state and the nation. The Eastern Panhandle Region registered job growth at an average annual rate of 2.6 percent during the 1995-2000 period, compared to 1.0 percent for the state and 2.4 percent for the nation. Job growth during the period was strong nearly across the board, with vigorous gains in construction, manufacturing, and nearly all service-producing sectors. This strong job growth was reflected in per capita personal income gains that exceeded the state rate, but fell short of national growth. The region also posted low, and falling, unemployment rates during the period and combined this with strong population growth.

The forecast calls for the region to continue to beat state and national job growth rates during the next five years, and for the region to far outperform most regions in the state. The outlook calls for the region to add jobs during the forecast, assuming the national economy avoids recession, and most of the net job growth comes in the service-producing sectors, especially services and government. Manufacturing jobs are forecast to stabilize, while construction activity supports continued job gains. Steady job gains drive continued improvements in the standard of living of the region's residents, as real per capita income growth outpaces expected state results. Further, continued job growth in the region, and in the Washington, D.C. PMSA, produces strong population growth, at rates similar to those posted during the 1990s. Finally, rebounding job growth in the region helps to push the unemployment rate back below 3.0 percent by the end of the forecast.

Eastern Panhandle Region in Perspective

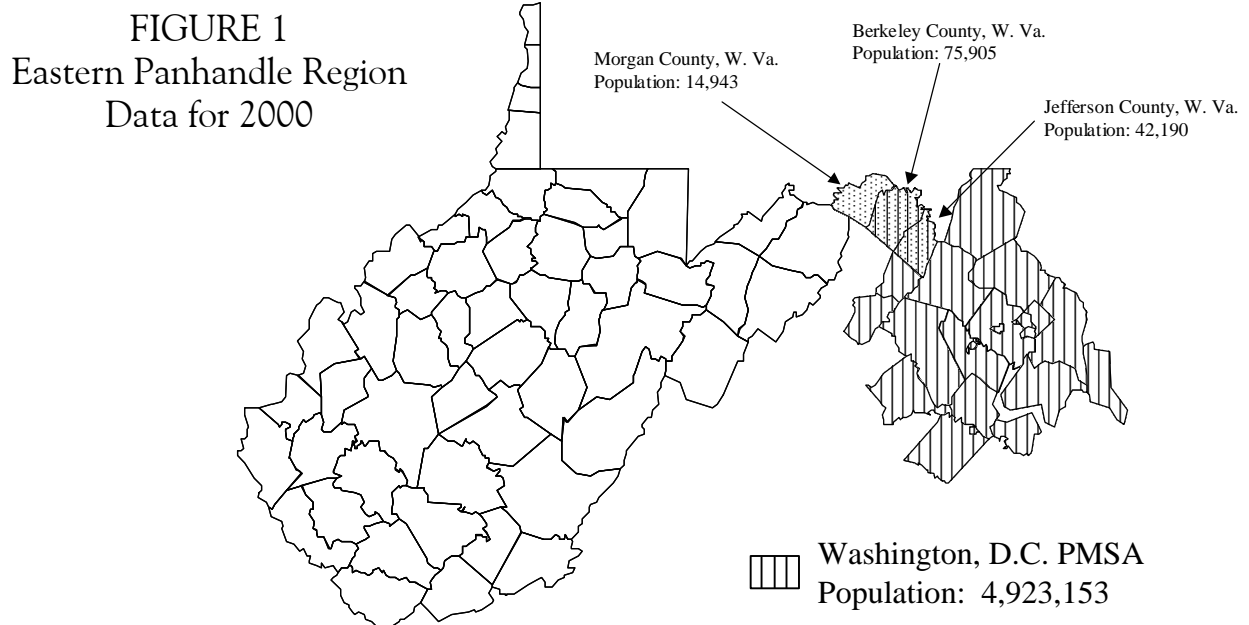
The counties of Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan compose the Eastern Panhandle Region. With its consistently strong growth, the Panhandle has become a significant portion of West Virginia's employment and population. In 2000, 133,038 of the state's 1,808,344 people, or 7.4 percent, resided in this region. Berkeley County is home to 75,905 people, or well over half of the Panhandle's population. The remainder of the population lives in Jefferson (42,190) and Morgan (14,943) counties.

As Figure 1 shows, both Berkeley and Jefferson counties belong to the Washington, D.C. Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA). Also included are the District of Columbia and neighboring counties from

Virginia and Maryland. Of the 4,923,153 people within the Washington, D.C. PMSA, only 2.7 percent came from the two West Virginia counties in 2000.

The importance of the region's relationship with the Washington, D.C. PMSA is reflected in the ratio of jobs in the region to employed residents. For the Eastern Panhandle Region in 2001, this ratio is just 66.7 percent, indicating that many employed residents living in the region hold jobs at establishments located outside of the region (according to data from the 1990 Census, a significant number of residents in the region commute to jobs at establishments located in other counties within the PMSA, but also to establishments in Washington County, Maryland and Frederick County, Virginia). The comparable ratios for the state and nation are 92.9 percent and 97.7 percent, respectively.

Note that the U.S. ratio is less than 100 percent. This results in part from measurement differences between employment by place of residence and jobs by place of work. Employment by place of residence is usually larger, since it includes the self-employed and farm employment. Measures of jobs by place of work usually exclude these groups. See the Spring 2001 issue of the West Virginia Business and Economic Review for more on these distinctions.



The Eastern Panhandle Region's residents tend to be younger than those of the state, with median ages in Berkeley and Jefferson counties at 35.8 and 36.8 years, respectively. These are well below the West Virginia level of 38.9 years, but are a bit above the national level of 35.3 years and above the Washington, D.C. PMSA level of 34.9 years.

The region also boasts an educational attainment rate well above the state average in 2000, with 16.7 percent of the region's residents age 25 and older holding at least a Bachelor's degree, compared to 14.8 percent for the state. However, by this measure the region's educational attainment lags far behind the national average of 24.4 percent and the Washington, D.C. PMSA average of 41.8 percent. Of the three counties in the Eastern Panhandle Region, Jefferson County recorded high highest share of residents with at least a Bachelor's degree (21.6 percent), followed by Berkeley County (15.1 percent), and Morgan County (11.2 percent).

In 2000, Morgan County had per capita personal income of \$19,973. This figure was below the state's per capita personal income level of \$21,738. With figures of \$23,027 and \$26,879 respectively, both Berkeley and Jefferson counties were well above the state average. Overall, the region's per capita income of \$23,905 was well below that of the Washington, D.C. PMSA at \$40,046.

Personal income is a broad measure of income flowing to residents of the region. It includes earnings from work (wages and fringe benefits), asset income (dividends, interest, and rent), and transfer income (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare payments). Per capita personal income is computed by dividing total personal income by the total population of a region.

Median household income is another popular way of measuring income flows to residents. This measure of income differs from personal income in that it excludes payments in kind, like Medicare and Medicaid. Further, this measure concentrates on income available to households, not individuals. This measure can differ from per capita personal income when there are many households with members that do not participate in labor market activities (dependent children or the elderly). This situation tends to push per capita personal income below median household income. Finally, median income can differ from per capita income when the income distribution is skewed.

Jefferson County's 1999 median household income of \$44,374 exceeded the U.S. median income of \$41,994. Berkeley and Morgan counties both exceeded the West Virginia median income of \$29,696. All Eastern Panhandle Region counties fell below the median household income levels of the Washington, D.C. PMSA, Maryland, and Virginia.

Poverty rates were relatively low in the region in 1999, with Jefferson (10.3 percent), Morgan (10.4 percent), and Berkeley (11.5 percent) recording rates well below the state level (17.9 percent) and below the national level (12.4 percent) as well. However, poverty rates in the region were above those recorded for the Washington, D.C. PMSA (7.4 percent), Maryland (8.5 percent) and Virginia (9.6 percent).

TABLE 1
Eastern Panhandle Region Selected Economic Indicators by County

	Population			Resident Employment	Per Capita Personal Income		Covered Job Growth	Unempl. Rate	Median Household Income	Poverty Rate					
	Census	Av. An. G.R.	Median Age		Av. An. G.R.						Av. An. G.R.				
	2000	1990-2000(%)	2000		2001	2000(\$)					1995-2000(%)	1995-2000 (%)	2001	1999(\$)	1999(%)
Berkeley, W.Va.	75,905	2.5	35.8	36,630	23,027	4.0	2.0	3.7	38,763	11.5					
Jefferson, W.Va.	42,190	1.6	36.8	22,520	26,879	5.2	4.2	2.5	44,374	10.3					
Morgan, W.Va.	14,943	2.1	40.7	6,390	19,973	4.1	2.1	3.5	35,016	10.4					
Eastern Panhandle Region	133,038	2.2	n/a	65,540	23,905	4.4	2.6	3.3	n/a	n/a					
Washington, D.C. PMSA	4,923,153	1.5	34.9	2,654,959	40,046	5.0	2.7	3.1	62,216	7.4					
Virginia	7,078,515	1.4	35.7	3,548,047	31,120	5.2	2.6	3.5	46,677	9.6					
Maryland	5,296,486	1.0	36.0	2,721,724	33,482	4.7	2.3	4.1	52,868	8.5					
West Virginia	1,808,344	0.1	38.9	792,000	21,738	4.0	1.0	4.9	29,696	17.9					
U.S.	281,421,906	1.2	35.3	135,073,000	29,469	4.9	2.4	4.8	41,994	12.4					

Population data are from the March 2000 Census Release.

Resident employment estimates for West Virginia are from the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs.

Washington D.C. and U.S. resident employment data are from the BLS - labor force data.

Per capita personal income data are from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Median household income and poverty rates are from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Covered Employment data is from Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia LMI, and DC DOES.

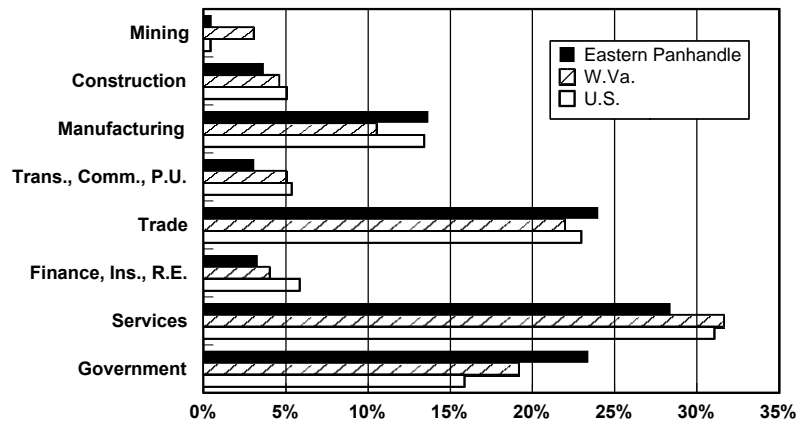
Unemployment Rate data are from WVBE and BLS.

The largest industry in the Eastern Panhandle is the services sector, accounting for 28.4 percent of total employment in the region in 2001. Classified within the services sector are industries such as health care, business services, and travel-and-tourism related activities (including Charles Town Races). However, the region relies less on this industry than does either the West Virginia or the U.S. economy, with 31.6 percent and 31.0 percent employment shares respectively.

Trade, comprised of wholesale and retail trade, is the second most important source of employment for residents of the Eastern Panhandle. As Figure 2 shows, this sector contributed 24.0 percent of the region's overall employment in 2001, exceeding the state rate of 22.0 percent and the national rate of 23.0 percent. A con-

centration of activity in the wholesale trade sector in the region helps to drive the trade job share up, with large distribution facilities (for example, General Motors and Orgill Inc.) located in Berkeley County.

FIGURE 2
Eastern Panhandle Region
Employment Shares in 2001
Compared to the State and Nation



The Eastern Panhandle is more reliant on the government sector for its employment than either the state or the nation. Government accounted for 23.4 percent of the region's jobs in 2001, compared to 19.2 percent for the state of West Virginia and 15.9 percent nationally. Several large federal installations in the region drive up the share of jobs in this sector. Indeed, the Veterans Administration Center and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (IRS) are among the largest employers in the region. The U.S. Coast Guard facility shows up in the government sector, as does Shepherd College.

Manufacturing is the fourth most important sector in the region, accounting for 13.7 percent of employment, which far exceeds the state share (of 10.5 percent) and just exceeds the national share of 13.4 percent. The largest manufacturing sector in the region is printing and publishing, with Quad/Graphics and Quebecor among the largest employers in the region. Also important to contributors of manufacturing jobs in 2001 are the machinery sector (Royal Vendors), glass products, and rubber and plastic products (Aker Plastics). Glass products in the region recently suffered a setback in the region, with the closure of the World Kitchen facility (about 275 jobs) in Berkeley County.

Mining plays nearly as small a role in the economy of the Eastern Panhandle as it does for the U.S. economy as a whole. Only 0.5 percent of the Panhandle's employment is based in the mining sector, compared to about 0.4 percent for the nation. In contrast, 3.0 percent of West Virginia's non-farm employment is in the mining sector.

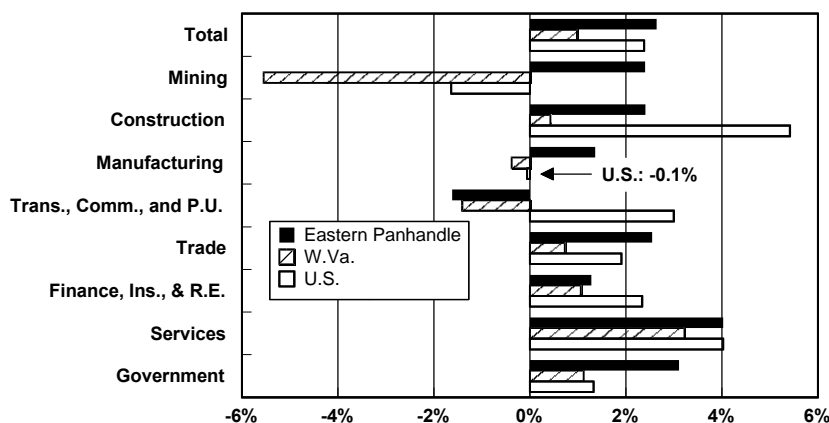
Recent Developments

With annual job growth at 2.6 percent between 1995 and 2000, the region just beat the rates posted by Maryland (2.3 percent), West Virginia (1.0 percent), and the U.S. (2.4 percent), but fell just short of the rates recorded by the Washington, D.C. PMSA (2.7 percent) and matched job growth in Virginia. Figure 3 summarizes job growth by industry for the Eastern Panhandle Region.

Although the region experienced 2.4 percent annual growth in mining jobs, since so few of the region's jobs are in this sector, the impact is actually small. On the other hand, West Virginia has seen mining jobs decrease

dramatically during the period, helping to suppress state job growth. The nation has seen a decrease in mining jobs as well, but to a smaller degree. Thus, the region has largely escaped problems associated with restructuring in this extractive industry.

FIGURE 3
Eastern Panhandle Region
Annual Covered Job Growth: 1995-2000



Except for transportation, communications, and public utilities (TCPU), the Eastern Panhandle experienced positive job growth in all other sectors. Job losses in TCPU were concentrated in Berkeley County, but spread across the trucking/warehousing and communications sectors.

Manufacturing added jobs in the region (due in part to large job gains in the printing and publishing sector), in contrast to zero growth at the national level and negative growth at the state level between 1995 and 2000. Manufacturing job gains in the region during the last half of the decade were concentrated in Berkeley County, as manufacturing jobs in Jefferson County were stable from 1995 to 2000. Morgan County lost nearly 70 jobs during the same period.

Results for 2001 accentuate this trend, with Jefferson County losing 350 jobs (at a major durable goods producer) and Morgan County losing roughly 20 jobs in 2001. In contrast, 50 new manufacturing jobs were generated in Berkeley County. Overall, manufacturing jobs in the region declined by 330 last year.

Job growth in the services sector outpaced state growth and matched the national rate at 4.0 percent per year. Gains in services jobs were fairly well distributed, with strong job growth in amusement and recreation services (expansion at Charles Town Races), coupled with solid gains in business, health care, hotels and motels, and social and membership organizations.

Government job growth was particularly strong during the last half of the decade at 3.1 percent per year, more than doubling the state and national growth rates. Gains were distributed across federal and state and local jobs, reflecting the federal facilities, and the strong population gains, in the region.

The Eastern Panhandle has been a population magnet for some time. Between 1990 and 2000, the region's population grew by 2.2 percent annually. In contrast, West Virginia's population grew annually by only 0.1 percent and the nation added residents at an annual rate of 1.2 percent per year. The region also outpaced the Washington, D.C. PMSA (1.5 percent), Maryland (1.0 percent), and Virginia (1.4 percent) during the 1990s, as Table 1 shows.

Per capita personal income for the Eastern Panhandle rose by 4.4 percent from 1995 to 2000, beating the state rate, but falling short of growth rates posted by the Washington, D.C. PMSA, Maryland, Virginia, and the U.S.

While the annual U.S. unemployment rate shot from 4.0 percent to 4.8 percent from 2000 to 2001, the Eastern Panhandle Region rate rose by 0.5 percent, from 2.8 percent in 2000 to 3.3 percent in 2001. A similar pattern characterized the rates for Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. West Virginia was one of few states to buck the trend toward rising unemployment rates in 2001, with population losses driving the rate from 5.5 percent in 2000 to 4.9 percent in 2001.

Forecast: 2001-2006

The Eastern Panhandle Region economy produces many goods and services which are sold to residents outside of the region. Thus, the region's economic performance depends to an extent on events occurring at the national and international level. Likewise, the outlook for the Eastern Panhandle Region depends on the outlook for the national and world economies.

The U.S. forecast, which underpins the Eastern Panhandle Region forecast, was produced by DRI-WEFA in July 2002 and is summarized in Table 2. DRI-WEFA is a national forecasting firm. That forecast calls for the national economy to rebound gradually from the (nearly non-existent) recession, which began in early 2001. Specifically, DRI-WEFA expects U.S. real GDP growth to rise from 1.2 percent in 2001 to 2.5 in 2002 and then to hit 3.5 percent by 2003. This rebound in real GDP growth is mirrored by improvement in the manufacturing sector (with industrial production growth surging in 2003) and employment and income growth.

TABLE 2
U.S. FORECAST
DRI-WEFA JULY 2002

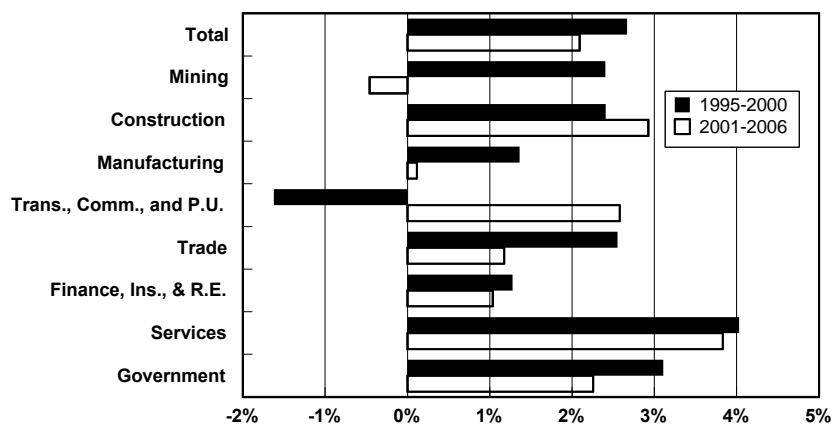
	Years					
	Actual 2001	Forecast				
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
		Annual Percent Change				
Real GDP	1.2	2.5	3.5	3.7	3.1	2.7
Industrial Production	-3.7	0.2	6.3	5.3	3.5	2.9
Nonfarm Employment	0.2	-0.7	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.3
Personal Income	4.9	3.5	5.5	6.1	5.7	5.6
Personal Consumption Deflator	1.9	1.4	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5
		Unemployment and Interest Rates				
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.9	5.6	5.1	5.0	5.0
Federal Funds Rate	3.9	1.8	3.0	4.7	5.5	5.5
Ten-Year Treasury Note Yield	5.0	5.2	6.1	6.7	6.7	6.5
		Federal Government				
Federal Budget Surplus (NIPA, FY, \$Bil)	119.0	-101.9	-112.0	-88.1	-56.7	-38.8
		International Trade				
Real Export Growth (GDP Basis)	-4.5	-3.5	7.8	8.3	7.3	7.0
Real Import Growth (GDP Basis)	-2.7	2.0	7.6	6.2	5.8	5.2

With stronger economic growth underway by the second half of 2002, DRI-WEFA expects the Federal Reserve to push overnight interest rates to the 4.0 percent range by the end of 2003 and to 5.5 percent by 2005. This is expected to be sufficient to keep inflation rates near 2.6 percent during the forecast.

Overall, DRI-WEFA expects a moderate U.S. recovery from the mild recession of 2001. Risks to this fairly upbeat assessment include the economic impact of possible new terrorist attacks, U.S. military action encountering complications (whether in Afghanistan or elsewhere), and the impact of additional accounting scandals on stock market valuations and consumer confidence. As of this writing, these risks seem to be out-weighted by the growth potential of the U.S. economy.

Rebounding national growth sets the stage for stronger growth in the region as well. This is evident in the job growth forecast, which calls for job growth to accelerate from the 1.1 to 1.4 percent range during 2000 and 2001 to an average of 2.1 percent per year through 2006. This average growth rate is a bit slower than the growth rates posted during the last half of the 1990s, as Figure 4 shows, but far exceeds expected state and national job growth.

FIGURE 4
Eastern Panhandle Region
Annual Job Growth: History and Forecast



The forecast calls for mining jobs to remain stable around current levels, while construction jobs continue on their upward trend, reflecting continuing job and population growth. Manufacturing jobs gradually stabilize and begin to grow again during the later forecast years. The aircraft sector is likely to expand during the forecast (with Sino-Swearingen and Tiger Aircraft looking set to gearing up production in the future). Guardian Industries (fiberglass) has announced plans to expand in the near future, but with the closing of the World Kitchen (about 275 jobs) plant in 2002, manufacturing jobs seem unlikely to rebound strongly this year.

Most of the net job growth in the region is forecast to come in service-producing sectors during the 2001-2006 period. Leading the way here is the services industry, with gains likely to be spread across sectors, reflecting both strong growth in locally-oriented services and gains in business services (including high-tech sectors, like computer programming) and engineering and management services. Government jobs continue on their upward trend, but do not match growth rates posted during the last half of the 1990s.

Steady job gains in the region, and continued growth in the Washington, D.C. PMSA, set the stage for fast population growth, as the region continues to attract new residents. According to data from the National Association of Realtors, the median sales price of existing single-family homes hit \$213,000 in the PMSA in 2001. This is likely to make housing in the Eastern Panhandle Region appear attractive. The region is forecast to maintain growth rates posted during the last half of the 1990s, and this far exceeds population growth expected for the state and the nation.

Job gains in the Eastern Panhandle Region, again combined with continued gains in the Washington, D.C. PMSA, generates continued inflation-adjusted per capita personal income growth at rates which exceed expected state results and are close to expected national growth rates.

Finally, rebounding job growth during the forecast pushes the region's unemployment rate down from 4.3 percent in 2002 to below 3.0 percent by the end of the forecast. Thus, the region is likely to continue to post some of the lowest unemployment rates in the state. This also means that employers in the region will continue to face stiff competition for labor resources.

Risks to the local job growth forecast include a significant deepening of the U.S. recession, which would depress demand for goods and services nationwide and put further pressure on manufacturing in the region. Tightening state and federal budgets in the near future may pressure some of the government jobs located in the region. However, homeland security issues may also present opportunities for growth, with additional spending and the possible decentralization of activity to outlying (but still nearby) counties.

Risks to population and income growth in the region reflect the large degree of commuting to nearby counties, including those also in the Washington, D.C. PMSA. The PMSA is dominated by services; finance, insurance, and real estate; and government activity, including defense and high technology (including bio-technology) which seem likely to grow in the near future.

Forecast Data Glossary

Forecast data for West Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle Region come from the West Virginia Economic Outlook Project. U.S. forecast data are from DRI-WEFA.

Covered Nonagricultural Employment by Industry

Historical employment data come from the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs' publication titled *West Virginia Employment and Wages*. Data can be found on-line at www.state.wv.us/bep/lmi/. Annual data cover employees at firms participating in the West Virginia Unemployment Compensation System. This covers most employees, except railroad workers, the self-employed, student workers, most church workers, and unpaid family workers. Jobs are counted based on where the establishment is located, not on where the worker lives.

Civilian Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, and the Unemployment Rate

Historical labor force data are available in the *West Virginia County Profiles*, published by the Bureau of Employment Programs. These data are available on-line at www.state.wv.us/bep/lmi/. Labor force data cover West Virginia residents only. They are counted as participating in the labor force if they are employed or, if unemployed, actively seeking work. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed residents divided by the labor force.

Population

Historical population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau and are available on-line at www.census.gov. Population data reflect the number of persons whose usual place of residence was within the state or county on July 1. Persons in the military or institutionalized are counted where the military base or institution is located, as long as that is within the U.S.

Real Personal Income

Real personal income is nominal personal income adjusted for the effects of inflation, using the U.S. personal consumption deflator. Personal income includes earnings from work (wages, proprietors' income, fringe benefits); dividends, interest and rent; and transfer income (social security, Medicare, Medicaid, welfare). Historical data are compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and is available on-line at www.bea.gov.

TABLE 3

Eastern Panhandle Region Employment, Population, and Income Forecasts

	Actual						Forecast						Annual Growth			
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	East. Panh. 2001-2006*	East. Panh. (%) 2001-2006*	W.Va. (%) 2001-2006*	U.S. (%) 2001-2006*			
Covered Nonagricultural Employment by Industry**																
Total	39,690	40,467	40,916	41,481	42,347	43,001	43,915	44,932	46,004	905	2.1	0.8	1.2			
Goods Producing	8,320	8,326	8,041	7,742	7,562	7,703	7,830	7,937	8,022	56	0.7	-0.7	0.2			
Mining	259	261	259	224	233	230	226	222	219	-1	-0.5	-2.4	-0.4			
Construction	1,486	1,500	1,552	1,618	1,720	1,789	1,827	1,849	1,869	50	2.9	-0.3	1.1			
Manufacturing	6,565	6,565	6,230	5,900	5,608	5,685	5,777	5,865	5,934	7	0.1	-0.4	-0.2			
Service Producing	31,370	32,141	32,875	33,739	34,785	35,298	36,084	36,995	37,982	849	2.4	1.1	1.4			
Trans., Comm., P.U.	1,056	1,141	1,103	1,198	1,265	1,299	1,327	1,345	1,361	33	2.6	-0.1	1.6			
Trade	10,110	10,166	10,203	10,480	10,638	10,790	10,806	10,961	11,110	126	1.2	0.3	0.4			
Finance, Ins., R.E.	1,413	1,447	1,415	1,447	1,463	1,462	1,494	1,516	1,524	15	1.0	0.8	1.2			
Services	9,382	9,684	10,092	10,582	11,160	11,327	11,796	12,249	12,771	438	3.8	2.1	2.4			
Government	9,409	9,703	10,062	10,032	10,259	10,419	10,661	10,924	11,217	237	2.3	0.8	0.8			
Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment																
Labor Force	61,380	63,730	65,330	67,780	70,581	71,918	72,586	74,055	75,958	1,636	2.3	0.5	1.3			
Employment	59,170	61,630	63,520	65,540	67,574	69,118	70,288	71,922	73,747	1,641	2.4	0.6	1.2			
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.3	2.8	3.3	4.3	3.9	3.2	2.9	2.9	-0.1	-2.5	-0.2	0.9			
Population (Thousands)																
Total Population	127.5	130.6	133.9	138.0	140.9	143.8	146.7	149.9	153.1	2.5	2.1	-0.0	0.9			
Real Personal Income (Thousands of 1996 Dollars)																
Total	2,893,590	2,893,446	2,976,461	3,110,539	3,246,600	3,357,575	3,480,714	3,619,561	3,767,627	131,408	3.9	1.6	2.8			
Wage and Salary	1,003,380	1,052,261	1,071,221	1,097,436	1,124,921	1,148,557	1,180,035	1,214,039	1,251,088	70,599	2.7	1.3	2.5			
Other Labor Income	161,183	168,716	171,532	176,628	185,628	192,234	198,677	206,140	214,172	7,750	3.9	0.2	2.3			
Proprietors' Income	148,389	155,213	156,627	158,068	163,934	170,661	175,302	180,400	189,204	6,227	3.7	1.6	2.4			
Dividends, Interest, Rent	438,539	445,210	467,112	488,469	507,135	525,238	546,322	571,906	598,009	21,908	4.1	0.4	3.1			
Transfer Income	404,353	413,206	428,091	468,185	504,795	522,005	546,347	575,995	606,216	27,606	5.3	2.8	4.1			

The Eastern Panhandle Region consists of Berkeley County, Morgan County, and Jefferson County of West Virginia.

*This column contains the average yearly change during the 2001-2006 period.

** Covered nonagricultural employment by industry includes employment at firms participating in the West Virginia Unemployment Compensation System. These estimates exclude the self-employed, student workers, most church workers, railroad workers, and unpaid family workers.

West Virginia forecasts is from the West Virginia Economic Outlook 2002.

U.S. forecast is from DRI-WEFA, July 2002.

Eastern Panhandle Region Outlook

George W. Hammond, Ph.D., Director, West Virginia Economic Outlook
Brian Osoba, Graduate Research Assistant

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